

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT WITH FIELD-REPLACEABLE  
BATTERY/INPUT/OUTPUT MODULE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5       A portable electronic instrument comprising a processing  
unit and a combined power and input/output module. The module  
includes a plurality of electrical contacts for mating to  
complementary contacts on a processing unit. The mating  
surfaces of the processing unit and module are shaped to  
10   provide a seal for the contacts when the module is attached  
to the instrument. The plurality of electrical contacts are  
connected to external ports that are accessible when the  
module is attached to the instrument. These ports may include  
DC power, AC power, and electric signal inputs and outputs.  
15   The module also includes mechanical features that enable it  
to be secured in the mated position with respect to the  
processing unit. These features may include interlocking tabs  
or holes for accepting screws. The module houses an energy  
storage device that may be a battery or a capacitor for  
20   providing power to the processing unit.